

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 251914Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4342

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 27755

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFR, FR, XF, SO

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON LIMITING MILITARY
SUPPLIES TO MIDDLE EAST

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR CHERVONENKO STATED PUBLICALLY OCTOBER 23
THAT QUESTION OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN MILITARY SUPPLIES TO
MIDDLE EAST COULD BE SETTLED IN PROCESS OF PEACE SETTLEMENT.
HIS REMARKS WERE AT LUNCHEON OF PARIS DIPLOMATIC PRESS CLUB
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS. L'AUREORE ON 24 TH REPORTED CHERVONENKO
AS SAYING THAT ARMS SUPPLY QUESTION COULD NOT BE SETTLED "EXCEPT
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A GENERAL AGREEMENT AND PEACE
SETTLEMENT." HOWEVER, MORE RELIABLE LE MONDE ON 25TH GAVE
A MORE POSITIVE VERSION OF THE STATEMENT, REPORTING THAT
THE AMBASSADOR SAID MILITARY SUPPLIES TO THE ARABS COULD BE
LIMITED "IN THE PROCESS OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT." SOVIET EMBASSY
CONTACTS CLAIM THERE WAS NO TRANSCRIPT MADE OF AMBASSADOR'S
REMARKS AND WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE CLARIFICATION.

2. AP ACCOUNT, WHICH OMITTED AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON MILITARY
SUPPLIES, QUOTED HIM AS SAYING "DESPITE THIS COMPLEX SITUATION
WHICH AFFECTS NOT ONLY THE MIDDLE EAST, THE PROCESS OF
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DETENTE HAS CONTINUED TO INTENSIFY".

3. SOVIET PRESS COUNSELLOR TOLD EMBOFF THAT CHERVONENKO WAS ESPECIALLY MINDFUL OF FRENCH SENSITIVITIES IN PREPARING FOR THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AND, ACCORDING TO THE L'AUREORE ACCOUNT, HE PRAISED THE FRENCH FOR CONTRIBUTING TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT. THE REMARK ON MILITARY SUPPLIES MAY HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE SAME FASHION TO STRIKE A POSE OF GENERAL REASONABLENESS AND CONCILIATION FOR HIS FRENCH AUDIENCE. HOWEVER, IT ALSO SEEMS TO INDICATE SOME SOVIET FLEXIBILITY ON THE QUESTION OF AN ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT.

IRWIN

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